limit and relaxation in the medical standards for entry into Government services.

(ii) 23 Special Employment Exchanges and 40 Special Cells for the handicapped persons have been set up exclusively to help the handicapped, including the blind, in their gainful employment. Besides, the normal employment exchanges also help the blind persons in finding suitable employment.

**(iii) Self-Employment is promoted through the following:—

(a) Allotment of vending stalls, kiosks and petty shops;

(b) Loans from Nationalised banks at nominal rates of interest under differential rate of interest scheme.

(c) Allotment of public telephone booths.

(d) 7½ per cent reservation in distribution of petrol pumps, kerosene depots etc.;

(e) loans upto Rs. 35,000/- are available under scheme of 'Empolyment of Educated youths'.

**16 Vocational Rehabilitation Centres have been set up to assess the residual ability of the visually handicapped and arrange their training for placement in regular employment.

Provision for Aid to small and marginal farmers

2158. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any provisions under which all States/Union Territories are given aid to help small and marginal farmers;

(b) if so, what are the provisions for this purpose in the Seventh Five Year Plan period for Bihar; and

(c) which districts in Bihar are likely to be benefited under this provision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) Yes, Sir. A Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Assistance to Small and Marginal Farmers for Increasing Agricultural Production has been in operation in all the 5047 IRD Blocks of the country including Bihar since 1983-84 and is being continued during the Seventh Five Year Plan with an outlay of Rs. 500 crores as Central share.

(b) and (c) Under the scheme an annual outlay of Rs. 5.00 lakh per block has been earmarked. The outlay is to be shared on 50:50 basis between the Central and State Government. The scheme is being continued in all the blocks in Bihar State during the Seventh Five Year Plan.

Grant of Financial assistance to veterinary Medical College, Anjora

2159. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal for granting financial assistance to the Veterinary Medical College, Anjora, District, Bilaspur, Madhya Pradesh is under consideration of the ICAR; and

(b) if so, by when the required assistance is likely to be released to the State of Madhya Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) In view of (a), the question does not arise.